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AMBLECOTE
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

REPORTS

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND

Sanitary Inspector

FOR THE YEAR ENDING

December 31st, 1947

STOURBRIDGE
J. Thos. Ford, Limited, Printers and Manufacturing Stationers
1948

Amblecote Urban District Council.

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year ending December 31st, 1947.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you the Annual Report for the year ending December 31st, 1947.

The Vital Statistics show a Crude Death Rate of 16.7 per 1000 of the population, as compared with 16.5 for 1946. The Live Birth Rate was 17.7 per 1000 of the population, as compared with 17.5 for 1946. There were no Still-births. The Infantile Mortality Rate was 19 per 1000 live births.

No serious outbreak of Infectious Diseases has occurred.

Housing and Overcrowding are dealt with in the Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

There has been no change in the Industrial Circumstances of your District since my last report.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area of District in Acres - - -	665
Number of Persons per acre - - -	4.5
Population (Registrar General's Estimate of Resident Population, middle of 1947) - - -	2988
Number of inhabited houses - - -	887
Average number of persons per house - -	3.4
Rateable Value - - - -	£20,146
Sum represented by a Penny Rate - -	£78

VITAL STATISTICS.

Rate per 1000 of the Estimated Resident Population.

			M.	F.	Birth Rate per 1000 of the Estimated Resident Population.
Live Births	Legitimate	Total 52 :	29	23	17.7
	Illegitimate	1 :	—	1	

Still-Births, Legitimate, Total Nil; Rate per 1000 Total (live and still-births) - - - Nil.

Birth Rate, England & Wales, 1947 - - 20.5

Deaths - 50—Males, 29 ; Females, 21 ;

Crude Death Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population - - - 16.7

Death Rate, England & Wales, 1947 - - 12.0

Deaths from Puerperal Sepsis or other Puerperal causes Nil.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age - - 1

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :

All Infants per 1000 live births - - 19

Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births 19

Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births Nil

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

England & Wales - - 41 per 1000

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) - - - 8

Death Rate from Cancer per 1000 of the population 2.6

Deaths from Measles (all ages) - - Nil.

Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) - - Nil.

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) - Nil.

Ages at which deaths occurred (50).

Under 1 year	1-5	5-15	15-25	25-45	45-65	65 and over
1	Nil	Nil	Nil	4	10	35

20 of these deaths occurred at ages from 70 to 80 years, and 10 over 80 years.

CAUSES OF DEATH (Registrar General's Return).

DISEASES.	1946		1947	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers -	-	-	-	-
Cerebro-Spinal Fever - -	1	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever - - -	-	-	-	-
Whooping Cough - - -	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria - - -	-	-	-	-
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System -	1	-	-	1
Other Forms of Tuberculosis - -	-	-	-	-
Syphilis - - -	-	-	-	-
Influenza - - -	2	-	-	1
Measles - - -	-	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	-	-	-	-
Acute Infectious Encephalitis - -	-	-	-	-
Cancer - - - -	7	1	4	4
Diabetes - - -	1	-	-	1
Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions -	3	7	3	3
Heart Disease - - -	4	4	5	4
Other Diseases of Circulatory System -	2	1	1	2
Bronchitis - - -	1	-	4	1
Pneumonia - - -	-	-	-	1
Other Respiratory Diseases - -	-	-	-	1
Ulcer of Stomach & Duodenum -	-	1	1	-
Diarrhoea (under 2 years) -	-	1	-	-
Appendicitis - - -	-	-	-	-
Other Digestive Diseases - -	1	1	-	-
Nephritis - - -	-	-	2	1
Puerperal and Post-Abortive Sepsis -	-	-	-	-
Other Maternal Causes - -	-	-	-	-
Premature Birth - - -	1	-	-	-
Congenital, Malformations and Birth Injuries - - -	-	-	-	-
Suicide - - - -	-	-	1	-
Road Traffic Accidents - -	1	-	1	-
Other Violent Causes - -	1	-	-	-
All other Causes - - -	2	4	7	1
TOTALS - -	28	20	29	21
	48		50	

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

As 1938

ADOPTIVE ACTS.

As 1938

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES OF THE AREA.

ii (a) Laboratory Facilities :

All Clinical Material sent to the County Bacteriologist.

Bacteriological Examinations :

Number of Specimens sent for Report - 2

	Total.	Positive.	Negative.
Diphtheria (Swabs)	Nil	Nil	Nil
Sputum	2	2	Nil

(b) AMBULANCE FACILITIES. As 1942.

(c) NURSING IN THE HOME. As 1938.

(d) TREATMENT CENTRES & CLINICS. As 1938.

HOSPITALS.

PUBLIC. As 1942.

VOLUNTARY

As 1938.

MATERNITY AND NURSING HOMES. As 1938.

TUBERCULOSIS. As 1938.

(i) MIDWIFERY & MATERNITY SERVICES.
As 1938.

(ii) UNMARRIED MOTHERS, HOMELESS AND ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN. As 1938.

(iii) HEALTH VISITORS & ORTHOPÆDIC TREATMENT.
As 1938.

REGISTRATION OF MATERNITY AND NURSING HOMES.
As 1938.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. (i) WATER. As 1938.

   (ii) DRAINAGE & SEWERAGE. As 1938.

2. RIVERS & STREAMS. As 1938.

3. (i) Closet Accommodation.

   (ii) Eradication of Bed Bugs.

   The particulars will be found in the Report of the Sanitary Inspector.

   (iii) Swimming Baths and Pools. As 1938.

4. SCHOOLS. One Junior School—recently transferred to the County Council.

5. DISPOSAL OF THE DEAD. As 1938.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1947.

1. *Remedy of Defects during the Year without Service of Formal Notices :—*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers - - 10

2. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—*

(A)—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 9, 10 & 16 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs - 4

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notices :—

(*a*) By Owners - - - 3

(*b*) By Local Authority in default of Owners Nil.

(B).—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTIONS 11 AND 13 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made - - 2

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders - - Nil.

(C).—PROCEEDINGS UNDER SECTION 12 OF THE HOUSING ACT, 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made - - - - Nil.

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit - - - - Nil.

4. *Housing Act, 1936—Part IV—Overcrowding :—*

(*a*)	(1)	Number of Dwellings overcrowded at end of year (1947) - - -	Nil.
	(2)	Number of families dwelling therein -	Nil.
	(3)	Number of persons dwelling therein -	Nil.
(*b*)		Number of New Cases of Overcrowding reported during the year - - -	Nil.
(*c*)	(1)	Number of Cases of Overcrowding relieved during the year - - -	Nil.
	(2)	Number of persons concerned in such cases -	Nil.
(*d*)		Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding - -	Nil.

HOUSING CONDITIONS AND OVERCROWDING

(See Report of Sanitary Inspector).

SECTION E.

INSPECTION & SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(*a*) Milk Supply ;

(*b*) Meat and other foods

(See Report of Sanitary Inspector).

(*c*), (*d*) Adulteration, etc. Food & Drugs Acts, etc.—are administered by the County Council.

(*e*) Nutrition : No action has been taken.

(*f*) Shell Fish : Little, if any, sold in the District.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE & CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

(2) NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) DURING THE YEAR 1947.

DISEASE.	Total No. of Cases.	AGES.												Cases sent to Isolat'n Hos-pital.	Deaths
		under 1 year	1 to 2 yrs.	2 to 3 yrs.	3 to 4 yrs.	4 to 5 yrs.	5 to 10 yrs.	10 to 15 yrs.	15 to 20 yrs.	20 to 35 yrs.	35 to 45 yrs.	45 to 65 yrs.	over 65 yrs.		
Enteric Fever	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Scarlet Fever	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2	-
Whooping-cough ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Diphtheria	4	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	-	-	-	4	-
Erysipelas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Smallpox	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Measles	24	-	4	3	4	2	11	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cerebro-spinal Fever ...	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Poliomyelitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Encephalitis	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Dysentery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	32	-	5	3	4	2	12	1	2	3	-	-	-	6	-

5. (a) Prevention of Blindness. As 1938.

(b) **TUBERCULOSIS, 1947.**

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0 under 1 year	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1 to 5 years	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 to 10 ,,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10 to 15 ,,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 to 20 ,,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 to 25 ,,	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
25 to 35 ,,	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
35 to 45 ,,	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 to 55 ,,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
55 to 65 ,,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65 and upwards	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-

Arrangements have been made with the County Education Authorities for immunisation of Children against Diphtheria. The School Doctor treats the children and the Council provide the Prophylactic. 43 Children were "immunised"—all under 5 years of age.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1947 for the Urban District of Amblecote in the County of Stafford.

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

1.—**INSPECTIONS** for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of: Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	M/c line No. (7)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	9	5	1	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) to which Section 7 applies						
(*a*) Subject to the Local Authorities (Transfer of Enforcement) Order, 1938 ..	2	33	15	2	—	2
(*b*) Others	3	—	—	—	—	3
(iii) Other Premises under the Act (excluding out-workers' premises)	4	—	—	—	—	4
TOTAL ..		42	20	3	—	

2. Cases in which **DEFECTS** were found

Particulars (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found: Found (3)	Remedied (4)	Referred: To H.M. Inspector (5)	By H.M Inspector (6)	Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)	M/c line No. (8)
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	5						5
Overcrowding (S.2) ..	6						6
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	7						7
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	8						8
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	9						9
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)							
(*a*) insufficient	10						10
(*b*) Unsuitable or defective ..	11	3	3	—	—	—	11
(*c*) Not separate for sexes ..	12						12
Other offences (not including offences relating to Homework)	13						13
TOTAL .	60	3	3	—	—	—	60

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. H. SIMPKISS,

Medical Officer of Health.

Amblecote Urban District Council.

Annual Report
OF THE
Sanitary Inspector
For the Year 1947.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my Report in an abbreviated form for the Year 1947.

Sanitary Accommodation.

Houses provided with Water Closets	-	869	887
Houses provided with Pan Closets	-	5	
Houses provided with Earth Closets	-	13	

Houses provided with separate Water Closets	746
Houses provided with Water Closets in common	123

The houses not provided with Water Closets are situate in an outlying part of your district which is extensively used for Fire Clay Mining purposes. Sewer accommodation is not practicable.

Removal of Household Refuse and Salvage Collection and Disposal.

Refuse Removal is carried out by Direct Labour. Disposal is by Tipping which is effectively controlled. The Vehicle used for the purpose is an ordinary Horse Drawn Cart fitted with removable covering to prevent the escape of dust, etc. A mechanically propelled one would increase the cost of the service out of due proportion. If the present arrangement is not an ideal one it is certainly efficient and economical.

23 Houses were provided with Sanitary Bins for the refuse in response to Preliminary Notices and for 3 houses as a consequence of Statutory action.

Slightly over 6 Tons of Paper were collected as Salvage and sold. Nearly all of it was obtained from industrial undertakings.

Housing.

The number of Houses is now 887—an increase of 34 over 1946. During the year 34 permanent houses have been erected by the Council and occupied and 3 similar houses erected by Private Enterprise have also come into occupation. 46 Permanent Council Houses are in course of erection and should be completed and occupied by the Autumn of 1948.

Progress is being made in the erection of 5 permanent houses by Private Enterprise.

Allocation of the Council Houses has been made on a "Points" system. Although not perfect it has resulted in the most urgent cases receiving prior consideration.

Housing Conditions.

The houses in your District may be classified as follows :—

Houses with one Bedroom - -	1	887
Houses with two Bedrooms - -	323	
Houses with three Bedrooms - -	476	
Houses with more than three Bedrooms	87	

Three "unfit" houses, viz. :—Nos. 21/22 Brettell Lane and No. 4 Withymoor have ceased to be occupied. Orders for the demolition of the 2 former houses have been made. The latter house may be used for purposes other than human habitation.

The following Houses have been dealt with under the Housing Act, 1936, viz. :—By Statutory Notices :—Nos. 21/22, Brettell Lane ; 80, Brettell Lane ; 49/50, Platts Crescent ; 19, Brettell Lane ; 4, 5, 6, 7, Box Hill, and by informal Notices :—No. 4 Withymoor ; No. 8, High Street ; Nos. 125, 126, King William Street ; No. 46, High Street ; Nos. 37/38, Brettell Lane ; Nos. 48, 49, 50, King William Street ; No. 88, High Street ; Nos. 144, 145, 146, King William Street and No. 1, Villa Street.

Statutory Nuisances, etc., at 52 houses were dealt with under the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1936.

Overcrowding.—There is little overcrowding on the scale laid down in the Housing Act, 1936. The average number of persons per house is 3.5. Occupation of a single house by two families, very often related to each other, is common. Newly married couples have considerable difficulty in securing separate accommodation.

Eradication of Bed Bugs, Etc.

No action necessary.

Water Supply.

With one exception all premises receive a continuous and pure supply of water for drinking and domestic purposes from the Stourbridge and District Water Board. The principal Bore Holes (at Wollaston Road and Mill Meadow) are situated in your District. Samples of Water for Chemical and Bacteriological Examination are taken at frequent intervals. The Laboratories are provided by the County Council. The Reports indicate a certain Hardness but otherwise the Water is of excellent quality for drinking. Close co-operation is maintained with the Engineer to the Board.

Milk, Dairies and Cowsheds.

Producers of Milk 2. They are also Retail Purveyors.

Sterilised Milk, in bottles only, is retailed in 8 Shops.

Milk—Special Designations Order: 2 Licences issued to sell "Pasteurised Milk" and 2 to sell "Tuberculin Tested." They are "Secondary" Licences only.

Food—Public Health (Meat) Regulations.

No Slaughter-house is used in this District. Three Retail Butchers are supplied with Meat from a Central Depot at Brierley Hill which is controlled by the Ministry of Food.

Unsound Food—The following unsound food was surrendered and destroyed, viz. :—Dried Prunes, 25 lbs. ; Tinned Milk, Fish, Tomatoes, 20 Tins.

Ice Cream.

No Ice Cream for Sale is manufactured in your district. It is sold by retail at one Café and from an occasional barrow of the "stop-me-and-buy-one" type.

Rats & Mice Destruction Act.

14 premises, suspected of infestation by Rats, were inspected. 10 proved to be infested. They included 2 Dwelling Houses, 2 Factories, 1 Hospital and 3 Refuse Tips. They were successfully treated by arrangement with Mr. Parker, Chief Sanitary Inspector, Brierley Hill Urban District Council. No test has been made in respect of the Sewers. Previous results were definitely negative and the circumstances remain unchanged.

Smoke Abatement and Atmospheric Pollution

Two factories have been under observation for excessive emission of smoke, etc. At one of them "Exempted Processes" are carried out. Education of Stokers and a supply of better fuel would do much to mitigate the smoke problem.

Precautions Against Infectious Diseases.

Houses (or Rooms) Disinfected	-	1
Patients removed to Isolation Hospital	-	6

I am, Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

HAROLD PIPER,

Sanitary Inspector.